

MARYLAND COLONIZATION JOURNAL.

CONDUCTED BY JAMES HALL, GENERAL AGENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

New Series. BALTIMORE, DECEMBER, 1846. Vol. 3.—No. 18.

“Nothing is more clearly written in the Book of Destiny, than the Emancipation of the Blacks; and it is equally certain that the two races will never live in a state of equal freedom under the same government, so insurmountable are the barriers which nature, habit and opinion have established between them.”
JEFFERSON.

SAILING OF THE “LIBERIA PACKET.”

It seems rather late in the day to announce on this, the 21st, the sailing of the Packet on the 3d instant, especially as the daily city papers noticed her departure; but even as a *past* event, it must be duly recorded and *Journalized*.

During the finishing, fitting and loading of this vessel after her launch, she was visited by hundreds of our citizens, both white and coloured, and the greatest interest was manifested in her peculiar and important destiny. The *knowing ones* about the Point, the old salts, riggers and builders walked round her, rolled their quids and squinted at all the lines of her hull, her spars, top hamper, &c. Then the Inspectors, the “men under authority,” whose good word is always anxiously sought by all holding vessel scrip, came formally on board, and with searching eye and pencil in hand, noted the size of all her timbers, the strength and kind of fastenings, the size of chain, the weight of anchors, the quality and size of rigging, in fact, the strength and fitness of every thing appertaining to the craft, from “stem to stern, from truck to keelson.” Then came the fancy, the wonderers, who look at paint, carving and gilding, and among them not a few of those who questioned within themselves, how deep might yet be their interest in this vessel. This party looked for cabin fixtures, conveniences and comfort, below and on deck—made enquiries, equally pertinent to the qualities of a vessel and a church, and stared on all abundantly. From the whole of this varied and varying throng of visitors we failed not to hear uniform expressions of satisfaction and unqualified approbation. Even the staid and careful Inspectors, who had kept mum during their long examination, slowly, as if unwillingly, declared her, “*in every respect a first-rate craft.*”

Thursday, the 3d inst. was fixed upon for the departure of the Packet on her first trip, and public notice was given through the city papers that religious services would be performed on one of the wharves at ten o'clock in the morning. Accordingly, at the time appointed, a very large concourse assembled, and after an address by the President of the Society, and a prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hamner, a large boat containing the emigrants and their baggage pushed off for the vessel, which was anchored some hundred

yards distant in the stream. Many other boats followed, filled with spectators, of the highest respectability, both from among the white and coloured, and all appeared highly delighted with the finish of the vessel, and the ample and even elegant accommodations for passengers and emigrants. But short time was allowed for the examination, however interesting, as a fine north-wester strongly urged getting under way. She tripped her anchor at twelve o'clock precisely, and was very speedily below the Fort and out of sight. She went to sea on Saturday morning, and the statement of the pilot, Mr. Sword, and the letters of Capt. Goodmanson, report the passengers and emigrants all in good health and spirits on leaving the Capes, and the vessel as answering, in every respect, the highest expectation of her builder and owners.

We wish we could stop here, and leave the impression that a new Packet of 331 tons burthen, built expressly for the purpose, and having accommodations for emigrants equal in point of room, air and light, to the best New York and Liverpool liners, made her first voyage well freighted with hardy pioneers and pilgrims in the great cause of African civilization,—with spirits who longed to breathe the air of freedom under the palm trees of their father land. But no! our duty as faithful journalists compels us to state, that Maryland sent but thirteen, and Virginia some twenty-six more. Yet we confidently predict, and we have good data for our predictions, that it will not always be so. The building, the launching, and the sailing of this packet, thus devoted to this great missionary work, owned in part, and to be mainly owned by the coloured people themselves, has produced a new era in colonization—it has awakened the colored man from his torpor—it has broken the shell of prejudice in which he had been long enveloped—it has proved in fact, “The sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees,” and no fear need exist, but the “bestirring of themselves” will follow. Light was all that was wanting, *light* but not *force*, the argument of the *thing*, not of *words*. The passing of this shuttle between the Chesapeake and Liberia, will weave a bond of union between the coloured man in America and his *free* Liberian brother that shall never be severed. We have long since declared, and we were the first to declare it effectively, that if Liberia was ever to be free, and to be well governed, that government must be administered by a coloured man; and we now as firmly believe, that if the cause of colonization is to prosper—if the colonies are to receive large and valuable accessions of emigrants from this country, it must be through the agency and action of the coloured people themselves,—it must be in vessels of their own, and under their own direction; and we view this one barque, this “Liberia Packet,” of which we have said so much, for which we have felt so much and laboured so hard, as but the *small* beginning of an extensive system of operations to be by them prosecuted and perfected. *Esto*.

As stated above, 26 emigrants went from Virginia, whose passage was paid by the American Colonization Society, and 13 from Maryland, whose passage was paid by the Maryland State Colonization Society, also Messrs. Scotland and Thompson, two colonists from Cape Palmas who came over in the Kent.

CABIN PASSENGERS.—Miss Brush, Miss Johnson and Mr. Morris, missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. Lugenbeel, Col. Physician of Liberia, and Dr. Fletcher, of Cape Palmas, and Mr. Geo. W. S. Hall.

BIBLES AND SCHOOL BOOKS FOR THE COLONY.

We are much gratified in being able to acknowledge the reception of a large and valuable assortment of school books, from Mr. Joseph Warner, of Philadelphia, through our constant friend and patron, Moses Sheppard, destined for the use of the Colony. This unexpected donation of over 400 volumes, was, at this particular time, very acceptable, as we should otherwise have been forced to make a purchase of them, and we now tender to the donor and the agent our warmest thanks.

Another still more gratifying donation was made to the Colony by the coloured people's Bible Society, in this city, of Bibles, Testaments and School Books, through Messrs. Watkins and Chew. As a matter of dollars and cents this supply of useful and valuable books, was of great importance to the Society and the Colony; as the means of effecting the greatest good with the smallest outlay, this distribution of the Scriptures and elementary school books, among a heathen and barbarous people, through the agency of the Christian colonists, must certainly be considered; but we see in this one simple act a greater good than all, a harbinger of better things to come. This extending on the part of the coloured people of Baltimore, of the right hand of fellowship (and in that right hand the book of love) to their brethren in Africa, forms a new era in the history of our cause, for strange as it may appear, this is the first act, by which any Society or Association of coloured people in this city, or, as far as our knowledge extends, in any other, have ever manifested any degree of sympathy with their trans-Atlantic brethren,—and it must be considered an omen of better times. We tender to the Society and to those who presented their offering, our most sincere thanks. We thank them the more, as we know them to be opposed to the principles of colonization; it shews them to have been actuated by the most generous impulses, which we trust will ever prompt them to be the friends of those of their own race, whom circumstances may have induced to seek a home in another hemisphere. We ask no man to go to Africa, but we ask of those who prefer remaining in this country, to act as this Bible Society has done, to assist and comfort those who do go, and to commence in time the payment of that great debt which they now owe them, for demonstrating, in the model Republic of Liberia, that the coloured man is fully capable of self-support and self-government.

EXTRACTS FROM LIBERIA PAPERS.

As usual, on the reception of a file of these papers, we make a kind of running extract from the whole, containing mainly, the editorials, local news, and missionary reports. Our file of the Herald embraces the issues of July, August, September and October, but they are of less than ordinary interest. The principal topic of discussion is that of the dissolution of the political relation between the colony and the American Colonization Society, and our readers will, no doubt, be surprised to find how much the Liberian editors talk and perorate like the same class in America. They

appear to understand the whole matter of government quite as well as ours do. But let them speak for themselves.

The crisis is at hand for the people of these colonies to meet together to consult about the affairs of the commonwealth. The subject of the Independence of Liberia is now the main topic of discussion. Every one has something to say about it. Free interchange of views ought to be sought for and obtained. All party feelings, if any there are, ought to be thrown aside to make room for its dispassionate consideration. It is not strange, that a difference in opinion, should exist as to the action necessary to be taken in the premises, and though others may hold ideas on the subject, at variance with ours, it would be improper for us, to treat them with indifference—nor would it be decorous in others to attribute to us unworthy motives, because we differ from them. Whatever may be the result of this important movement, it is supposed that all will be affected alike in its operations.

The extra session which closed its deliberations on Wednesday night, had this subject before it, and it was discussed with the most perfect freedom and animation. The council room throughout the session, which lasted three days, was well filled with spectators, who listened with the deepest attention to all that was said for and against the measure. Of course that body could not make any final disposition of the subject. It is the people's business, and the Governor is directed to convoke them for the purpose of bringing the subject before them, for their determination.

We are not prepared to say, when the convention of the people will take place. It is presumed, that the executive will order it, when the state of the weather, and other attending circumstances will permit them to assemble without much inconvenience to themselves or embarrassment to their affairs.

We owe it to ourselves, to our children and to those who may come after us to consider and ponder well before we enter upon a new and untried state of things. To engage in this work with a hope of a successful termination, it is all important that a spirit of unanimity should prevail among the people. Let a conciliatory feeling pervade every breast.

COLONIAL LEGISLATURE.

The extra session of the Legislature closed its deliberations on the evening of the 15th ult. It was convened for the purpose of receiving the despatches sent out by the American Colonization Society. These despatches contain resolutions announcing a most important movement on the part of the Society—a movement involving nothing less than a total severance of the Society from all political connexion with the colony and an entire withdrawal of control from all its affairs, both internal and external.

A movement so solemn—an act, so pregnant in its consequences with weal or woe to the people—opening up before them as it does, scenes never discovered before—launching them upon an ocean never before explored—calling them to the exercise of functions and to the discharge of duties they had scarcely ever contemplated, and committing to their unpracticed hands, that destiny which hitherto they had suffered to lodge elsewhere, may be well supposed to have created throughout the colony, the most intense sensation. And accordingly, we have never witnessed a session of the legislature, where the members seemed more firmly fixed in the position which they had marked out for themselves—never one in which there was more uncompromising of argument, more inflexibility of opinion, nor one in whose deliberations the inhabitants appeared to take so deep an interest.

Numerous circumstances concur to create and to sustain this sensation. The mass of the people have been accustomed to regard the society as not only the parent and the nurse of their political existence—not only the source of their power and authority, but also a shield, which thrown around them, has warded off blows which but for this defence would long since have laid their little political fabric in the dust. There can be no questioning that the society, including as it does in the number of its members, men, who are not only high in the confidence and influential in the councils of the American people; men, the fame of whose wisdom and talent, and varied accomplishment has circled the globe—there can be no questioning that the society thus composed has exerted a salutary influence on behalf of the colony, that, if it has not attracted toward it the kind and sympathetic regard of foreigners, it has in some instances withheld the blow which would have fallen with fatal energy upon its head.

This is most freely admitted. But while this is admitted, the peculiar circumstances which gave birth to this influence and which imparted to it force should be kept steadily in view. Two of these circumstances, and the two most efficient at once present themselves—misconception in respect of the political alliance of the colony, and its non-interference with the interests and pursuits of others. The first of these no longer has place—the character and position of the colony having been accurately stated and defined, and the second (if we may so speak) is rapidly following the fate of the first—the growth of the colony and its necessary territorial extension bringing it into collision with the supposed or at least claimed rights and interests of others. This being the case, it were idle to suppose that the colony will not henceforth attract attention, and awaken feelings altogether different in kind from those with which it was wont to be regarded. The great bulk of our people, however, unmindful of these great and important changes still look up to the society as to a guarded Angel, a tutelary Genius—still regard it as able to bear them up on its wings of power, and as strong to deliver them safely and triumphantly out of every difficulty. We say that this opinion, the fallacy of which we shall not here combat, exerts a powerful influence on the minds of many of the people and agitate them with painful apprehensions. But other considerations, determine others to halt in their course, and to withhold from any action at the present time. It should not be concealed that there is entertained on the part of some, the opinion that the time has not yet arrived for the colony to take so important a step—that matters and things connected with the colony are not yet ripe for a change so vast and radical as must be effected by a dissolving of the bonds which have hitherto united us to the society. This opinion, however, although entertained with all the seriousness and conscientiousness of conviction, will not be suffered to arrest action and concurrence in the resolutions, any longer than the moment arrives when those who hold this opinion shall receive that information to which they hold themselves entitled. The information received from the society is in the form of bare naked resolutions; setting forth the expediency of declaring Liberia independent, but unaccompanied by a single syllable of explanation or a single word of stipulation. In the opinion of this class—and the whole people meet on this common ground—some other relinquishment on the part of the society, besides that of mere political authority is absolutely—yea, indispensably necessary, and they hold that this other relinquishment should be a preliminary or at least an accompaniment of the relinquishment of political authority, and they hold further that without such relinquishment, a declaration of independence would be altogether inconsistent, an empty sound, a mere mirage, a baseless unsubstantial fabric.

We are not allowed to suppose for a moment, that the society contemplates a cessation of its operations here. This continued deportation of colored people to this colony, is a cherished and avowed purpose; and we have no doubt that this people will stand with open arms, to receive them and to greet them with a hearty welcome to their father-land as fast as circumstances render it prudent for them to come. The question then presents itself, under what circumstances will they come? to whose authority will they be subjected? what authority will determine their location? To whom will they look for land? From whom will they derive a title to it? The question which covers the whole grounds is, to whom in the event of a declaration of independence, will the territory belong which is now styled Liberia? Will the American Colonization Society continue to hold an exclusive claim upon the land so as to parcel it out or transfer it when, how and to whom it pleases? or will such a transfer be made to the people as will give them an exclusive independent and irresponsible right to it? Or will the society retain only such a claim upon it as will enable them to secure to those whom they may hereafter deport from America, a title to allotments independently of the concurrence of the government, and should opposition at any time be manifested in the face of its wishes? These are questions which were eagerly asked in the house and out of the house; but no one was prepared by documentary information from the society to give a satisfactory answer.

Although these considerations presented themselves to the mind, without perhaps an exception of a single man in the colony; although they are regarded by all of a very grave character, and necessary to be definitively settled and understood, yet it should be mentioned for the satisfaction of the society, and for all who have recommended the measure, that there are those in the colony, both in the legislature and out of it, whose confidence in the wisdom and integrity of the members of the society, in their wisdom to perceive and their integrity to do all that is proper to be done, to effect fully and completely the object in view, as leaves them free and untrammelled to move forward with unfaltering step in the course marked out by the resolutions.

Perhaps we would not be very wide of the mark should we conjecture, that considerations not very dissimilar from those we have mentioned as embarrassing the people, pressed with no light weight upon the mind of the society whilst contemplating a separation from the colony. It were not unnatural for the members to ask themselves what assurance have we, that the people of Liberia will not, when sovereign power be lodged in their own hand, seek some other alliance as a means of strength and of security against insult and aggression. And when it is recollected how much American philanthropy has done for the colony, how great sacrifices colonizationists have made of time, of ease, of money and of life to conduct it to its present condition, how highly they prize it as a practical illustration of the recuperative energy of American benevolence, and with what intense interest they can not but regard it as an extension to the eastern hemisphere of those principles of republican liberty and popular institutions, which among the moderns, their fathers were the first who had the sagacity to discover the independence to proclaim and the courage to defend—when these circumstances are present to the mind, not only does the question not appear unnatural, but rather one which would arise with prompt and ready spontaneity, and thus arising become the subject of deep and anxious thought. This, however, is one of those cases which in the progress of human affairs are continually arising, and against which no infallible provision can be made. The mind is as fruitful in ingenious devices as the heart is strong in its unnumbered desires. In this respect they are linked in an indissoluble co-

partnership, and working into each other's hands, each derives and imparts support and countenance. We cannot be at a loss for instances in which the most solemn compacts have been shamelessly violated; and guaranties the most solemnly pledged have often failed to bind the hand and the heart of faithlessness and perfidy. But what wretch has yet proclaimed his treachery, and what usurper has not sought to justify his usurpation. But we think we do but speak the fixed sentiment of the whole people of these colonies, without the exception of a single individual capable of thought, when we say the great object which at first brought us to Africa, is still kindly and tenderly cherished. That great object which loomed in all its grandeur of outline before our eye—which dazzled in our imagination, and roused lofty aspirations and lured us on from home, and kindred and social endearments—which endued us with patience to suffer, and with fortitude to endure—which gathered motive from danger and strength from defeat, that grand object, to plant a nation of colored people on the soil of Africa, adorned and dignified with the attributes of a civilized and christian community is still the object dearer than all others to every Liberian. Indeed so thoroughly are we penetrated with the conviction of the necessity, that in order to the consummation of this purpose, we should stand alone and unembarrassed with any foreign allegiance, we should regard the document which conveyed away our independence nothing less than the record of an abject fate to last through all coming time. Better, far better will it be for us that a century find us still a weak and "feeble folk" than to bend an ignoble neck to the anglo-saxon yoke, of whose unclenching tenacity when once it has fairly grappled, the whole history of the modern world affords most melancholy examples.

On this score, the society need entertain no apprehension. Here motives the most powerful—fear and hope, and burning desire, all concur to forbid treachery and to sustain honor and integrity.

Having said the above, it is not necessary we should add, there were very opposite views entertained by the counsellors as to the course proper to be pursued. And although the members in favour of immediate action formed the majority of the council, yet as immediate action did not appear to be demanded by an imperative necessity, the earnest remonstrance of the minority against what they called precipitancy united with the considerations above alluded to, to determine the legislature to the course mentioned by one of our co-adjutors in our last number. And thus for the present the matter rests. But the die is cast, the Rubicon is passed. The society has acted, nor will the people be long in following their example.

We are again at our post as one of the assistant editors of this little periodical. It is, however, our object only to assume the responsibility of the present issue, and in doing so, we would most respectfully call the attention of the citizens of this commonwealth to the present political crisis of Liberia.

The annual election for members of the legislature is nearly at the door, and it is lamentable to see that the friends of constitutional reform, are not sufficiently aroused to the importance of pressing the subject home to the minds of the electors. There is no subject that we ought to canvass more freely and dispassionately than that of the measures to be adopted in carrying out the resolutions of the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society, adopted at their last Annual meeting, relating to the independence of Liberia.

In casting our eye over the Governor's Proclamation, which relates to said resolutions, we were involuntarily led to conclude, that much depends upon

the choice to be made in candidates for the ensuing election. Our opinion is founded on the fact, that the proclamation above referred to, leaves the citizens to determine by vote, at the election to be held in October next, whether they will, or will not delegate sufficient authority and power, in the legislative body that will convene in January next, to make or recommend a constitution for the people's adoption, or whether a convention shall be ordered for said purpose. Now should the people vote in the affirmative of this proposition, it will most assuredly be required that the legislature should be composed of the most intelligent and judicious men of the commonwealth, or should the votes be polled in favor of a convention, in either case it will be essentially necessary to select wise and judicious men, for the ensuing legislative session; for should the people by their vote determine in favor of a convention, it will follow, a matter of course, that the legislature will have to draft rules and regulations for the government of that body. Looking at matters in this light, we insist then, that the subject of constitutional reform, has within itself sufficient interest to awaken our attention to it. Wake up then and enter upon the work in earnest. Again we say to our fellow citizens, wake up, select your candidates, let them hold up their hands, and unto them shall the gathering of the people be.

This is no time to conjecture or falter. We have no other subject of importance, when compared to the present, to distract or divide our attention, seeing that we have entered a crisis, from which we cannot turn our backs—there is not left for us an alternative. The die is cast, and the fatal rubicon is in full view. We may with our united effort, and firm and unbending course, prove to the world, that our race is capable of self-government.

Now we will further remark, that our people would be pursuing a wise course, were they to determine by their vote to authorize the legislature at its next annual session to draft a constitution to be submitted to the people for their approval and adoption.

We believe such a course appears reasonable from the following consideration, (*viz.*) that the commonwealth Treasury at present is quite low in funds, and further, that there is no reasonable ground for us to suppose that our resources are likely to be increased during the remaining period of the fiscal year,—besides if a change of government is resolved upon, the legislature at its next session will not make any material change in the existing laws, as it is very apparent to us, that in the event of a change, many of the present laws must necessarily undergo material revisions—then in such a case, should the legislature be authorized to do the work of a convention, at least five or six hundred dollars will be saved in the coffers of the commonwealth, although we freely acknowledge, that it is almost the invariable course of governments on the alteration or amendments of their constitutions, to order conventions for said purposes. Yet we are inclined to believe in our case, and the circumstances under which we have to labor, the course proposed is equally safe, in as much as the whole plan or draft, will have to be submitted to the people, for their approval and adoption, such being the case, they will be enabled to interpose their objections to any and every feature of the document that may appear to be an infringement upon their political rights.

It is well known by all concerned, that we have always been in favor of the "non-reform" party, but our views are changed; we must, however, be permitted to say, that circumstances over which we have no control, have changed them—therefore, in common with some of our fellow citizens, we are compelled to make the best we can, of what we consider to be a pre-

mature change in our national character. Our desire is, that patriotism and a proper sense of our duty we owe to posterity, will sufficiently influence and characterize every step and action we may be called to take in this all important subject, upon which hangs the future destiny of this little growing republic. "God save Liberia."

We copy the two following articles respecting the means of subsistence in the Colony, &c.; and must add, that although we are well acquainted with the actual condition of the poorer class of people at Monrovia, yet it much astonishes us, that we have annually to hear the cry of hunger, and to see one or more articles in their papers upon the supply of provisions from other parts of the coast or from abroad. How could the Liberians more thoroughly substantiate the charge, made against them by their enemies, and the enemies of their race, than by thus annually raising this cry of *hunger!* and that too in tropical Africa, where all elements conspire to perfect vegetable nutriment. It makes one's heart sick to hear it.

We hope that the time is not far distant, when the people of Liberia will cease to spend as they have hitherto done, the best part of their earnings for foreign provisions. Our soil is as good as any in the world, and capable of yielding with little labor a variety of wholesome and nutritious productions, and if we prepare pastures, and take other necessary precautions, we can raise more meat kind than we can possibly consume, and the thousands of dollars which are annually sent from the colony, for the overplus provisions of other countries, would remain with us, and add greatly to our commercial capital, and to the wealth of the people. The time is at hand for us to act,—and act we must, with a determination to raise ourselves in the opinion of the civilized world. We are on the eve of proclaiming the sovereignty of Liberia, and of soliciting its acknowledgment from foreign powers,—would it not raise us higher in the scale of respectability, if, before we ask for this acknowledgment, we were producing a sufficiency from our soil, for our own consumption? All will admit this, and yet be content with raising only a small portion of the quantity necessary for their consumption. We must not, if we are anxious to rise to importance, continue to lead a slothful existence—our sluggishness must be shaken off, and a new energy, unfettered and determinate, must take its place.

There can be no doubt, if the resources now within our reach, are properly cared for—and industry and economy go hand in hand, but that Liberia, at no very distant day, will claim her stand among the proud nations of the world. This consummation so anxiously desired, cannot be accomplished in a month or a year—time and perseverance must bring it forth—we must marshal our whole strength for its attainment, our children must be educated, and the resources of our beautiful and prolific country must be developed.

Rice is coming in very plentifully. The crops, generally, turned out well. The supply of potatoes and cassadoes is abundant.

HARD UP AGAIN!—The supply of provisions by the Chatham, which we all supposed would fortify us against want until the harvest of rice should be gathered, has

"Gone like the chickens went before"

and many have returned again to suck their thin and idle fingers. We are continually hearing the most doleful complaints about "hard times" and

"scarcity of provisions," and curses deep and many are poured forth upon the unreasonableness of the up-the-river-people for asking "money" for their rice and cassado. Now we think nothing is more unreasonable than these curses nor more reasonable than that the "up-the-river-people" should "make hay while the sun shines." This is their hour and they are availing themselves of it, as those most assuredly would who are loudest in their complaints against them. These lugubrious and querulous ones should recollect, that while they have been playing the loafer about the "Cape" refusing to work for less than seventy-five cents or a dollar a day, and getting perhaps employment two days in six, the "up-the-river-people" have been honestly and silently employed in planting cassado and potatoes and in sowing rice—and they should moreover remember that when provisions are plentiful no people are treated with more contumely and insult than the "up-the-river-people," to whom at such times nothing but the commonest and cheapest articles will be given in exchange for their produce. We are now passing through an ordeal of hunger, but unless the people speedily leave this hill and betake themselves to their farms, the scarcity of the coming season will in comparison render this one of plenty. It is true, there is more doing now in the farming line than at any past period, but the additional production is more than countervailed by the recent additions to our population.

The following chapters of accidents might as well be stereotyped, as the like occurs every rainy season, viz. the loss of sundry boats, drownings, &c. &c. In fact we believe the whole commercial marine of the colony is biennially swept on shore by the surf. The registry of vessels there, to prevent fraud in sales, would be entirely unnecessary, as we do not remember the colonial craft which ever numbered as high as five years of age. One or two rings on the horn is as high as they will average. Lucky that they have plenty of ship timber. We think the number drowned by carelessness since the first settlement of the colony would exceed 100.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday the 29th ult. a canoe containing three Americans and a native in ascending the river to the upper settlements ran upon a sunken tree and capsized. Three of the four individuals—two Americans and the native, were drowned. The other American made his escape by swimming ashore. Mr. Mumford, one of the unfortunates—a member and local preacher of the Methodist Church, has left a widow and a large family of children to mourn his loss. It is needless here to lift again the voice of admonition against traveling in unsafe canoes; all admonition and remonstrance, even that of frequent catastrophes similar to the above, is lost upon the carelessness and temerity of our people.

Not many weeks ago Mr. Nathaniel Harris, a member of the Baptist Church in Edina, was drowned by the upsetting of a canoe while crossing from Bassa Cove to Edina.

The weather has been recently extremely boisterous, and the sea and bar unusually rough. A boat belonging to the U. S. Brig Boxer capsized in the bar, but we are happy to say no one was lost. Mr. Benson's boat, the Fox, in attempting to go out, grounded and sustained considerable injury, besides losing a little of her cargo. She was removed from her perilous situation, brought back into the river and partially repaired. Subsequently she made another attempt to get to Bassa,—got as far as Junk, sprung a leak, lost her anchor, and the wind and current being both against her, she put back and reached this place in safety.

CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.

A few days ago the "Niger" owned by Mr. Goedelt was upset in the bar, and after emptying out her contents, valued at some four or five hundred dollars, went ashore on the beach and was literally crushed to atoms by the surf.

On the 21^{ult}. Charles Lynch in assisting to return the salute of the H. B. M. Sloop Nimrod had his arm so shattered by the untimely explosion of the gun as to require immediate amputation. It was supposed he was otherwise seriously injured. He died on the 23^d.

On the 25th. An item of African royalty was in a most unkingly predicament. His Majesty King Bromly while on his way up the St. Paul's in a canoe was upset. *Sans ceremone* his majesty struck out for the land and was soon recognized by his red cap, sitting in a mangrove.

On the night of the 21st, the north facade of the colonial Warehouse came down with a thundering crash. This is an enormous pile, and the prostrate front having for some time given strong indication of an inclination for a tumble, the emergency was in a great measure provided against. There was no injury done to person and very little, if any, done to property in store. On the 18th the Ketch "Nisus" owned by Mr. Theodore Canot, went ashore at the mouth of Cape Mount River. The vessel was knocked to pieces: cargo saved but damaged.

On the 17th, A. Krooman attached to H. B. M. Sloop Nimrod, while swimming off a cask of water to one of the boats was taken by a shark.

On Monday last the schooner "Pedlar" and the cutter "Eliza Frances" in attempting to come into the river, grounded on the bar,—the Pedlar grounded first—and strange to say, that the Eliza Frances, then some two hundred yards from the bar, instead of putting back, continued to come on, and grounded within a few yards of the Pedlar. It was ebb tide, and as the Frances draws but little water, she was soon got off without damage;—not so with the Pedlar, she remained on the bar until Wednesday, when through the kindness of Captain John Pope, of the U. S. brig Dolphin, she was relieved from her perilous condition without having sustained any material injury.

DROWNED.—Mr. Nathaniel Harris, of Edina, in attempting to cross the river from Bassa Cove to Edina was drowned by the upsetting of the canoe. The melancholy catastrophe occurred on the 17th instant. We are so far from feeling surprised at such occurrences that we are astonished they are so few. We have often trembled when we have seen from four to six persons crowded into a little hog-trough of a canoe going up or coming down the river whilst the edges of the *kooner* are scarcely above the surface of the water. A few days ago we saw a little death-daring fellow paddling with might and main in a piece of hollowed timber truncated at both ends, and which at best would in dimensions have hardly sufficed for a coffin if he had found the fate which he appeared to be seeking. Many of our people manifest a recklessness and temerity in this respect truly astonishing.

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE LIBERIA HERALD.

A FEAT.—Not long since some half dozen of the Congoes brought here in the "Pons" while engaged in clearing away bush on a farm on Bushrod Island started an enormous snake. As if apprised of the Congo predilection for snake meat his snakeship went off at full speed for the covert of his house, but the Congoes, as determined to have him as he was to get away,

raised a deafening yell and started in chase. The snake run in the direction of the house in the vicinity, of which there was a large bug-a-bug hill which had been long abandoned by its builders. The snake reached this mound, and had succeeded in getting one-half his length in a hole in its side, when one of the Congoes to whose feet, hunger and hope and desire for a delicious repast, had given wings, reached the place. Quick as lightning the Congo seized him by the tail, and a severe struggle and trial of strength ensued, the snake trying with all his might to pull his person in, and the Congo trying with all his might to pull the snake's person out. They were pretty nearly balanced, and the struggle would have lasted some time had not a cutlass been brought to the contest. The snake was despatched, and when measured, was found to be fourteen feet long. It was of Boa species. The mound which he attempted to enter was afterwards dug down, and it was found to contain 150 snake's eggs, measuring one bushel and a half. They were without doubt the eggs of the snake which was killed. We need not say it was a high day for the Congoes. It was indeed to him a feast of fat things.

Numerous petty robberies have been committed of late. The unambitious villians have contented themselves with carrying off poultry and vegetables, with an occasional snatch at an ill-secured window curtain. If these annoyances are continued, we think the Town Council should look to the matter and devise a remedy against them.

We have been informed that the supplies sent out for the negroes by the "Pons" will be shortly distributed. We would suggest as the most equitable mode of distribution that reference be made to the court books, where the number which each colonist took is registered.

Commodore Read visited the shore yesterday morning. He made several calls before he left it, and expressed himself as being gratified with the appearance of the town, &c. He dined at the Government House and at 4 o'clock left for his ship. On his way from the Government House to the wharf he was honoured with a salute from Fort Norris.

A petition signed by 21 Monroviaans, praying for the abolition of the law imposing a tax of \$500 on grog shops was before the legislature. The petition was received and ordered to lay over till the annual session. Judging from the way it was received, we are quite sure, that the prayer of the petitioners will avail nothing.

THE AFRICANS BY THE PONS.—A number of these people are living wild in the woods, and at night come in town and carry off cattle, &c.—Within the last fortnight six milch cows and a number of sheep, hogs and goats, have been carried off by these marauders. Unless a speedy stop is put to the ravages of these thieving scoundrels, we will very soon be as poor as "Job's Turkeys." We have considerable sympathy for these people, and the community in general would willingly assist in taking care of them;—but such is the disposition of some of them that they prefer, notwithstanding you may lavish upon them much care and expense,—to live a wild life in the woods, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, rather than live with the colonists where warm and comfortable quarters can be obtained.

NEW RICE.—We are gratified to have the pleasure of informing our readers, that rice is ripening very fast. In fact some proprietors have already commenced cutting. We feel quite confident that large supplies will soon be in market.

The people of the county of Grand Bassa, are far before us, in every branch of industry. They are systematically at work planting coffee, arrow root, &c. to exchange for foreign productions. While the people in this county, expend annually, more than one thousand dollars for foreign soap, and the best part of their time in discussing politics, or some other unimportant subject; they occupy their time in making soap in sufficient quantities to satisfy their wants, and in the honourable and praiseworthy employment of their farms.

LIBERIA LYCEUM.—On the evening of Wednesday, the 12th inst. the Lyceum was addressed by Mr. James Brown. It is amongst the rules of the institution that some one of its members shall deliver an address at the end of every three months. For the term just then closed, Mr. Brown had been elected orator. As the address was not written, but delivered extemporaneously, we are not sure that the public will be gratified to peruse it—a gratification which we most heartily wish them to enjoy. Although we are not satisfied as to the appropriateness of the subject to the occasion, we are altogether so as to its deep and absorbing interest. It was no less than the independence of Liberia. When we express the wish, that all the people of Liberia who did not listen to Mr. Brown, should be furnished with a copy of his speech, we do so in the utmost seriousness. For although four-fifths of the sentiments advanced by the gentleman are veritable antipodes of those entertained by us, yet, as a good and honest patriot, as most we certainly believe Mr. Brown to be; as a man of influence in the colony, he deserves to be heard; and that portion of the people who look up to him, is entitled to the benefit of his speculations.

The Portuguese Schooner Donna Anna, Capt. M. S. Machado, which left here on the 6th inst. for St. Thomas, was boarded just out of the harbour by H. M. C. Schooner Hirandelle, and report says she was sent to Goree. When she arrived at this place, there were three French armed vessels in harbour. A day or two after, two of them left for the windward. One of them, the Comete, remained at her anchorage, and by her keeping her boats almost constantly on board, it was supposed she was holding herself in readiness to sail at a moment's notice. On the night of the 5th inst. the Hirandelle arrived, and early on the following morning, the Comete weighed anchor and put to sea, leaving the Hirandelle at anchor. Mr. Machado having closed his business here, put to sea a few hours after the Comete left. The Donna Anna had not cleared the harbour when the Hirandelle's canvass was seen bellying to the breeze, and she following hard in the wake of the Anna. Presently the Hirandelle's deep mouthed cannon boomed athwart the waters and soon her boats were on board.

Our opinion in regard to the capture is, that it is only a rumor. The Donna Anna is from Oporto, touched at Sierra Leone, where she lay three months, the Captain having been ill with the fever. Her cargo consisted of earthenware, wines, and the ordinary trade goods.

On the 20th ult. H. B. M. Sloop Nimrod, J. R. Dacres, Esq. Commander, dropped anchor in our harbor. Mr. Dacres is in command of the Sierra Leone division of the British squadron employed for the suppression of the

slave trade. The purpose of the Nimrod's visit to this place was to take off the prize crew of the nameless "piratical Brigantine Slaver" which was wrecked on the 16th, a little to the south of False-Cape. Mr. Dacres professed himself quite pleased with what he saw and heard, and expressed no little interest in our welfare. We have to regret that the visits of intelligent foreigners are so infrequent. To this cause is to be attributed mainly, the misconception which prevails too extensively in regard to the actual state of things in and about the colony. Our regular and constant visitors are traders; men, who come to Africa to make money; whose mind filled with the idea of privations endured and supposed dangers encountered, are eager to make the most of every moment, and of every chance to accomplish their purpose. They therefore have no time to give to any thing but wood and ivory; and every check to their career, however just and proper that check may be, is sure to be avenged by a torrent of wholesale abuse upon the whole colony when they go from amongst us. This is the general rule, to which however there are some rare exceptions.

The visits and correspondence of men of intelligence and honor, whose mind can soar above the grovelling contemplation of pounds, shillings, and pence, will prove most serviceable in removing the prejudice which ignorance and meanness have excited against us. The Nimrod left on the 23d for the windward.

HISTORY OF AFRICAN COLONIZATION.

BY DR. ALEXANDER.

There being only one copy of this work in the colony, we are indebted to the kindness of our friend, Mr. S. Benedict, for the privilege of hastily running over it.

Dr. Alexander is known as a tried and fast friend of colonization and of the colony; and in sending his book forth at this time in the manner he has done, he has performed a most acceptable service, and has added another obligation to the many we owed him. While the friends of the colony are laboring to place it upon a firm and solid basis, it is essential that its character be displayed—that it be shown to be capable of self-sustentation and to possess all the elements and attributes of a regular and orderly government. The most ready way to do this, is to ascend to the first movement of its elemental principles; to regard them in their process of combination and arrangement in the political and social engine, and to contrast their first and irregular movement, with their present operations, when sufficient time has been allowed for the wearing off of asperities, and the adjusting of the different parts, which is ever found necessary in the best appointed constructions. This Dr. A. has done: and it is interesting to trace the silent progress of colonization from its first conception in the mind of Hopkins, to its full embodiment in the immigrants of the Elizabeth in 1820. The book contains much interesting information, which, from our limited reading, may be well supposed new to us. There is one circumstance however, which we much regret. But, for this circumstance, Dr. A. can hardly be held responsible. We refer to the dubious character given to Kizzel.

We were present at the investigation at Forah Bay, of the conduct of Kizzel in the vexing delays and mortifying disappointments in Sherbo; and we have never entertained a doubt that Kizzel was an injured man. Nor is there the least doubt that Kizzel was a warm and zealous friend of the Americans. It is clear to our mind, that he exerted himself to obtain the Bargroo for the site of the settlement, and that his purposes were only thwarted by those who calumniated him afterwards. Kizzel stood high in

the favour of the local authorities when at Sierra Leone, and directly after he espoused the cause of the Americans, he lost that favor and died in disgrace; while his calumniators were received into favour.

We are also confident, that but for the sudden deaths of Messrs. Winn and Andrus, some other name than Kizzle's would have figured in the dubious emblazonry. It is therefore to be regretted, that this stereotyped slander should find a place in such a book as Dr. Alexander's.

We will be pardoned for referring to some misprints, which, though of little consequence to us of the present generation, may prove very puzzling anachronisms to the reader of the next. The Ship Elizabeth is said, page 114, to have sailed from New York, 6th February, 1821. The Elizabeth sailed from New York, 6th February, 1820. Dr. Ayres is said, page 167, to have received his appointment from the Board, July, 1822, and singularly enough, page 172, we find him bargaining with King Peter for land, on the 15th December, 1821!!

Mr. Ashmun sailed from Baltimore, 15th May, 1823, and stood on Mesurado 9th August, 1822. Page 178. One more error and we will close. On page 257, in a quotation from Dr. Randall, we are told "he estimated the property in the public" (meaning of course, society's) "stores at seventy thousand dollars." We happened to be here when Dr. Randall arrived, and were employed by him to make some purchases at Sierra Leone, of supplies of provisions for the colony, and we are bold to state there was not at that time, and has not been at any other time one fourth of that amount in the Society's stores. Barring these peccadillos which are of minor consequence, the work may be profitably consulted on subjects connected with the early history of the colony.

CLOCKS.—It is almost certain that Liberia rejoices in a greater number of clocks than any other place of the same population on the "wide spread earth." Be where one may; whether in his own house or his neighbours; whether walking along the streets or bargaining for a Kroo of cassado or a bunch of fish under the "bluff" his ears are sure to be annoyed with the ceaseless tick, tick, tick. While we are endeavoring to bear an humble testimony against these intolerable nuisances, our passion is pushed almost to the boiling point by one directly behind our chair, which by perversely striking twelve insinuates we would be better employed in sleep, than in a combative editorial upon clocks. But for the fact that it seems by its constrained wheezing and half suppressed tone, to be in the last stage of the Quinsy, we are not sure we would not at once address ourself to apply a remedy by a personal assault.

Whatever may have been the intention originally of collecting this vast number of clocks, it is evident they are not now kept for the purpose of ascertaining the time. It is nothing unusual while walking the streets to hear two or three at once chanting their requiem from different quarters. One, two, three; one will say—One! cries another—two, three, four, five, is the pert addendum of another. Indeed this sickly wheezing fellow right behind us (thanks to our stars he's almost gone) a few evenings ago commenced to cry the hour a little after candle-light, and continued to scream away at the top of his wiry lungs until he reached thirty four!! Not long ago we called, on our way to the Lyceum, at the house of a friend whom we found busily engaged in writing. It was perhaps about 7 P. M. His horologe opened his mouth and with all possible gravity proceeded to cry, nor ceased till he said fourteen!! Nothing astounded, our friend proceeded with his work and persists in declaring his clock keeps excellent time.

LEMON SYRUP.—This article may be made in large quantities in Monrovia, at very little expense to the maker. Gather lemons quite free from blemish, squeeze them and strain the juice; to each pint of it, put a pound of good loaf sugar pounded, stir it frequently until the sugar is completely dissolved, cover the vessel closely in which the juice and sugar are put, let them remain till the dregs have subsided, and the syrup becomes transparent;—have bottles perfectly clean and dry, put a wine glass full of brandy into each bottle, then fill them with syrup, cork and seal the bottles with rosin. In no case allow your syrup to be put on the fire—it will destroy the fine flavor of the juice of the lemon. Brown sugar, when clarified, will answer all the purposes of loaf.*

* Why don't you make it then, for export, and not prate about it?—*Ed. Jour.*

HEALTH OF MONROVIA.—Although we have had a great deal of rain this season, the health of Monrovia, as a general thing, has been very good. The M. E. M. family in this place have perhaps suffered from periodical attacks of fever, more than any other persons here. Mr. Rove and Cornish who came out by the *Barque Chatham* in June last, are still enjoying excellent health; the African fever has not, as yet, confined them to their bed, one hour since their arrival.

OUR LYCEUM.—Quite an animated debate was had in the lyceum hall on Wednesday evening last. The subject debated was, in the event of a law being passed by the legislature of Liberia, prohibiting the introduction of foreign provisions in the colony, [said law to take effect in January, 1848,] would such a law prove beneficial to the colonist or not. The subject was ably debated on both sides. It was however, decided in favor of the affirmative.

SOMETHING NEW.—Captain J. R. Brown of the schooner *Boston*, of New York, arrived in our harbour from the U. S. via Sierra Leone, on the —inst. immediately after his arrival, finding his vessel in a leaky condition in her upper works, he concluded to have her brought into the Messurado River, finding sufficient depth of water on the bar—the attempt was successfully made without the least damage sustained.

We believe this to be the first time that an American vessel has ever been anchored in our river. Capt. B. certainly has so far surpassed all other traders on this coast, and that too, at the saving of considerable expense to which traders are subject to in lading and unlading their cargo. Instead of having to pass through the bar to and from his vessel to land cargo, all was done at our wharves to the gratification of those who made purchases of Capt. B.,—to crown the whole affair, near the close of his sales, he gave invitations to some of our citizens to partake of a lunch with him on ship board. We are informed that the entertainment came off quite finely. We were of the invited, but our business was of such a nature, that we had to forego the pleasure of attending.

TERMS.

This Journal is published Monthly, and is furnished to Subscribers at \$1 per year, whether sent by mail or otherwise. All profits arising from its publication are applied to advance the general purposes of the society.

✂ All Communications intended for the Maryland Colonization Journal, or on business of the Society, should be addressed to DR. JAMES HALL, General Agent, Colonization Rooms, Post Office Building.

